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# THE SPIRIT OF JESUS IN ST. PAUL



# THE SPIRIT OF JESUS IN ST. PAUL

A STUDY IN THE SOUL OF ST. PAUL  
BASED UPON THE CORINTHIAN LETTERS

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BY

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WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY  
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NEW COLLEGE, EDINBURGH

AND A FOREWORD BY  
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UNITED FREE CHURCH COLLEGE, GLASGOW

LONDON

JAMES CLARKE & CO. LIMITED

9 ESSEX STREET, STRAND, W.C.2

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TO  
MY MOTHER  
AND FATHER

*Printed in Great Britain*

## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

One of the interesting tendencies of modern New Testament scholarship is an increasing recognition of the essential solidarity of the apostle Paul with the primitive Christianity out of which he sprang, and of which he is the most distinguished representative. It is no longer possible to draw an absolute line between the apostle and the primitive Church, nor can the theology of St. Paul, even in its most characteristic developments, be regarded other than as the working out of ideas and motives already present and operative in the Christian soul.

Paulinism is built perpendicularly upon historic Christian foundations, nor can we estimate *a priori* the extent to which the ethical and emotional content of the system has been quarried from the primitive Christian experience. Our records of the latter are, apart from St. Paul, extremely meagre. On the other hand, St. Paul's identification of the Spirit with the Lord seems to guarantee the essential oneness of his teaching with the general historic witness of the Church of his time.

It is one of the merits of Mr. Bryden's book that he brings this out, and that he offers an analysis of the Pauline teaching which is in close and helpful relation both to religious experience and to practical



## Introductory Note

life. Good wine needs no bush, and it is really superfluous to write an Introduction to a book which will abundantly justify itself. The motive of this notice must be sought rather in another direction. Mr. Bryden is a young Canadian theologian whose attainments, while recognized in his own community, have not hitherto asserted themselves in any appeal to a more general audience. Now that he makes this wider appeal, his friends would bespeak for him a friendly welcome.

W. MANSON.

*New College,  
Edinburgh,*

*Oct. 9th, 1925.*

## FOREWORD

There is much Biblical study that does not go to the root of the matter. Never has that ancient civilization, within which Biblical literature is set, been more assiduously explored than to-day. Its social life, its political inter-relations, its religious ritual, are understood as never before. Archæology, philology, historical and literary criticism have rendered immensely valuable service to the interpretation of the Bible. But more is needed than that. At best that is just to look upon the outward appearance, while no one can be an adequate interpreter of the Bible who has not looked upon its heart ; and the heart of it is religious experience. Only one who has penetrated to that experience and, in his own measure, shared it, can deal with the Bible in any really vital way.

That is why every living interpretation of its great personalities is a contribution to religion no less than to Biblical science, and why Mr. Bryden's study of Paul ought to be widely welcomed. Important and even indispensable as historical studies are, psychological studies bring us nearer the centre. What most of all interests Mr. Bryden is the character of Paul, as that character was moulded and controlled by the spirit of Jesus. Yet the discussion is conducted in no merely speculative interest. Throughout it runs an undercurrent of appeal to the Christian minister to-day

## Foreword

to search and try himself by the standards exhibited in that first and greatest of Christian ministers, and, amid all the chequered experiences incidental to a faithful ministry, it is a summons to the perennial Source of refreshment and renewal.

This is a pre-eminently thoughtful book, obviously written out of a ripe Christian experience, intense in its sincerity, and forcing its readers back upon ultimate things in themselves, their work, and their faith—a book that will help them to a deeper understanding not only of Paul but of themselves ; and I have pleasure in commending this literary first-fruits of my old Canadian pupil.

JOHN E. McFADYEN.

*United Free Church College,  
Glasgow.*

## AUTHOR'S ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I desire to acknowledge the help and encouragement received from Professor Manson, then of Knox College, Toronto, now of New College, Edinburgh, in the preparation of this book, also for suggestions in literary construction from Rev. N. A. McEachern, of Toronto, and my deep indebtedness to Professor J. E. McFadyen, of the United Free Church College, Glasgow, for kindness in reading the proofs, preparing the Index, and for many other reasons.

WALTER W. BRYDEN.

*Woodville, Ontario,  
September, 1925.*

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